

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 00075 061614Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 EB-07 SAB-01 /058 W
-----061707Z 093321 /44

R 061525Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6096
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0075

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FACIO VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. SUMMARY. EX-FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO IS PLAN-
NING TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON AS PRESIDENT ODUBER'S EMISSARY
REPORTEDLY TO CONSULT WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. SPECU-
LATION IS HIGH THAT FACIO WILL SOON RETURN TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. COSTA RICAN MEDIA JANUARY 5 REPORT THAT EX-FOREIGN
MINISTER GONZALO FACIO WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON JANUARY
9 OR 10 ON AN UNOFFICIAL MISSION FOR PRESIDENT ODUBER.
ONE OF FACIO'S AIDES TOLD EMBOFF FACIO WILL TRAVEL ON
JAN. 8. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED REPORTS, FACIO WILL
MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW ADMINISTRATION AND
POSSIBLY WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER TO DISCUSS, AS
PART OF A DIVERSE AGENDA, AN INCREASE IN COSTA RICA'S
MEAT QUOTA AND U.S. FOREIGN COMMERCIAL POLICY.

3. MEDIA ALSO REPORTS THAT FACIO WAS IN PANAMA DEC.
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 00075 061614Z

29, DURING WHICH TIME GENERAL TORRIJOS ASKED FACIO TO
CARRY MESSAGE TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO SPEED UP
CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THESE SAME NEWS ACCOUNTS ARE SPECULATING THAT
FACIO HAS DECIDED TO GET OUT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
RACE AND THAT HE WILL RETURN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

FACIO WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THIS TO NEWSMEN
JAN. 4 FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER AND
THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY, BUT
PROMISED A "TRANSCENDENTAL POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT"
FOR JAN. 5.

5. COMMENT: A FACIO TRIP TO WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME
AS ODUBER'S SPECIAL EMISSARY CAN BE LOOKED UPON
PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF GOVERNMENT PARTY POLITICS, I.E.,
THE SAVING OF FACIO'S POLITICAL FACE. THE ANNOUNCE-
MENT IS A GOOD INDICATION OF FACIO'S HUEVENTUAL RETURN
TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (AS HE WAS ALWAYS EXPECTED TO
DO WHEN/IF HE LOST THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY) AND QUITE
POSSIBLY HIS WITHDRAWAL AS A PRE-CANDIDATE. ODUBER NAMED
ONLY AN INTERIM FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN FACIO LEFT IN
OCTOBER.

6. AT THE SAME TIME, DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT
PRESIDENT ODUBER TOLD AMBASSADOR IN NOVEMBER THAT
GOCR WOULD ATTEMPT TO GET THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO
LOOK AT THE MEAT ISSUE AFRESH. PARTICULARLY SINCE
ODUBER AND FACIO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE OLD FRIENDS WHO
ARE IDENTIFIED WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION,
THEY MAY WELL FEEL THAT AN EFFORT AT THIS TIME ON MEAT AND OTHER
TRADE ISSUES, AND TO MAKE COSTA RICA'S MODERATE VOICE HEARD EARLY
ON AT NEW POLICY MAKING LEVELS, WILL BE PRODUCTIVE. ALSO, "CONSUL-
TATION" WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS THE NOTE THAT
FACIO AND ODUBER WOULD LIKE TO STRIKE AS FACIO PREPARES
TO RETURN TO HANDLE FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE LAST YEAR-PLUS
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PAGE 03 SAN JO 00075 061614Z

OF THE ODUBER GOVERNMENT.

7. EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION OTHER THAN MEDIA REPORTS
REGARDING FACIO'S PLANS IN WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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